

Nineteenth Century Reed-Stem Tobacco Pipes

from the Mogadore, Ohio, Dump

By James L. Murphy*
Kurt Reich

ABSTRACT

Nine different styles of 19th Century reed-stem clay tobacco pipes are described and illustrated from a village dump in the town of Mogadore, Summit County, Ohio. Most, if not all, of these pipes are believed to have been manufactured by the Akron Smoking Pipe Co., of Mogadore, between 1884 and 1895. Many Mogadore pipes are distinguishable by virtue of mold marks found in the bottom of the pipe bowl. Two additional pipe styles are described from another small dump in Mogadore but are less certainly ascribed to the Akron Smoking Pipe Co.

Introduction

FOR many years grade school children and other collectors have dug through a large dump lying near the center of the town of Mogadore, Summit County, Ohio, in search of complete tobacco pipes. The village dump, which is located along the edge of a mill pond and dates from around 1880, has been thoroughly turned over by collectors, and undamaged pipes are now a rarity at the site. Fortunately, fragmentary pipes have been ignored by the collectors, so that it has been possible to retrieve 302 broken specimens from the Mogadore dump.

The Mogadore sample consists overwhelmingly of a single pipe style herein denominated Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield. Most of these are factory rejects, and the conclusion seems inescapable that at least the hexagonal stemmed type and a variety of it were manufactured by the Akron Smoking Pipe Co., for many years a leading

Mogadore industry. It is probable that the type described as *Mogadore Diamond-Stamped Elbow* was produced by this company, but other types are generally too rare or disparate in design to permit similar conclusions about their manufacture. A variety of pipe styles are available for study (and purchase) in local antique stores, and many of these were undoubtedly produced in Mogadore. These local productions, however, are indiscriminately mixed in most collections with "foreign" pipes, including some recognizable Pamplin, Virginia, types, so extreme care must be taken in ascribing any of these specimens to a Mogadore provenience. The problem is further complicated by the fact that several smaller potteries in Mogadore also manufactured tobacco pipes before merging with "Fenton & Co." to become the Akron Smoking Pipe Co.

The existing data on various pipe manufacturers in the Akron-Mogadore area has been summarized by Blair (1965). He lists Baker and McMillen (1873-1893) and Hopkins & Robinson Mfg. Co. (1875-1880) as manufacturing clay smoking pipes in Akron and Fenton & Co. (1883-1885) and the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. (1885-1895) producing tobacco pipes in Mogadore. T. H. Fenton & Co. (ca. 1850-1875) is also listed as manufacturing tobacco pipes in nearby Tallmadge, Ohio. Not included in Blair's checklist is H. J. Ayres & Co. of Akron, though Blair illustrates an Ayres

*James L. Murphy, Research Assistant, Department of Geology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Kurt Reich, 5891 West 217th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

letterhead, dated 1876, advertising "wood, clay, and enameled smoking pipes." Elsewhere in his text Blair mentions that the Barber Match Co. also produced smoking pipes, and he illustrates a letterhead of the Akron Pottery, E. H. Merrill & Co., dated 1883, that advertises "tobacco pipes."

Stout (1923) provides more information on the Merrill pottery, noting that the brothers Calvin J. and Edwin H. Merrill began manufacturing stoneware bottles, tobacco pipes, and other items in Middlebury (Akron) as early as 1847. The Akron Pottery was established by Edwin H. and Henry E. Merrill in 1861 and continued to manufacture smoking pipes until 1894 when they disposed of the pipe business to the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. Stout also notes that the Merrill, Earl & Ford company, which had smoking pipe plants in Mogadore and "in Virginia", (probably at Pamplin) was also taken over, in 1894, by the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. Unfortunately, nothing more is known regarding the company of Merrill, Earl & Ford, though Geiger Omwake (1967:23) notes that "Sometime prior to 1880 William Merrill of Akron, Ohio, undoubtedly a member of the pipe making family, established a pipe making factory at Pamplin."

At Mogadore, Curtis Fenton began manufacturing tobacco pipes in 1883. According to Doyle (1908), Fenton was a member of the firm of Baker and McMillan which acquired the small pipe factory that became the nucleus of the Akron Smoking Pipe Company. Fenton had earlier spent 8 years working at his uncle's pottery in Tallmadge. The Akron Smoking Pipe Company was organized in 1889 but ceased manufacture of pipes at Mogadore around 1895. Doyle indicates that production continued at a "Hampton, Virginia" plant (probably Pamplin, Virginia) and a Point Pleasant, Ohio plant, (formerly the Peterson Co.) apparently acquired at about the same time as the Hampton facility. They were still in operation in 1908, but the Point Pleasant plant had ended production by the early 1920's (Stout 1923). Hamilton and Hamilton (1972) state that the Pamplin, Virginia, factory was acquired by the Akron Smoking Pipe Company,

though they are somewhat uncertain about the date. In all probability, Doyle's "Hampton" is a lapse for "Pamplin", and the factory was obtained in 1894.

Archaeological Evidence for the Age of the Mogadore Dump

The Mogadore dump is located along the margin of a mill pond originally used to power James McCormick's 1817 grist mill. The pond was still in use in 1874, at which time it powered J. B. Hall's "Valley Mill". Presumably, filling of the pond would not have been permitted while the mill was in operation. The meager evidence recovered from the Mogadore dump, incidental to collecting tobacco pipe fragments, contains nothing assignable to a date earlier than the 1880's. Fragments of various patent medicine bottles range in age from 1880 to the turn of the century (Wilson and Wilson 1971) with one {Dr. M. M. FENNERS/[PEOPLES] REMEDIES/[FRE]DONIA, N.Y.) possibly dating to 1873. These include [D]R PIERCE'S/GOLDEN/[MEDICAL] DISCOVERY (ca. 1882), [MRS] WINSLOW'S/[SOO]THING SYRUP/[ANG]LO AMERICAN DRUG CO. (post 1880—pre 1900), L.M. GR[EEN] (ca. 1894), and WILSON'S/[MO]NARCH/[REMED]IES (ca. 1900). Other datable remains are scarce at the site, though a few cartouches on ironstone pottery and soda bottle fragments indicate additions to the dump throughout the first half of the present century. The bulk of the material dates within the last 2 decades of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century. A variety of tubular earthenware and porcelain electrical insulators also occur in the Mogadore dump. These probably were made by the Akron Smoking Pipe Co., Which began production in 1895 and became the Mogadore Insulator Co. in 1920 (Stout 1923). This company moved to Akron in 1927 (Anonymous 1957). Hamilton and Hamilton's (1972) informants are incorrect in stating that "the Akron plant was devoted to the manufacture of drain tile after the pipe machinery was moved to Pamplin".

Description of Pipe Styles

With some reluctance the reed stem pipe styles available from the Mogadore dump are described in terms of a type-variety classification system, except in those cases where the sample was too small or the specimen(s) too incomplete to permit a complete description and an assignment of the style to a Mogadore company. Although terms such as "Akron Shaker" and "Wigwam Shaker" are noted, it is believed that such names should be eschewed, for the same styles were produced at various plants, making a more rigid typological framework desirable.

Nearly all of the more common pipe styles represented at the Mogadore dump are of gray to buff or tan stoneware, usually coated with a clear to dark tan salt glaze. Attempts to tabulate differences in color of the ware and of the glazes have not met with success because of the extremely variable and gradational nature of the differences in color. As many of these variations are undoubtedly due to incidental differences in firing temperature, length of firing, and similar variables in manufacture, it is not believed that they will prove of importance in distinguishing the various Mogadore pipe styles.

Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield (Fig. 1a)

Diagnosis: Chesterfield form with expanding hexagonal stem; bowl ornamented by 36-40 fine vertical ribs, giving a "milled" appearance to the bowl. A single rib circles the bowl 3-4 mm below the lip. Gray to tan and reddish brown in color. Many specimens marked with "mold marks" in the bottom of the bowl.

Measurements: Maximum length: 45mm; Maximum bowl width: 26-27mm; bowl height: 36-38mm; Stem diameter: 17-18mm; bore diameter: 6-7.5mm.

Comparison: The flaring hexagonal style is distinctive, but production of this form apparently was not limited to the Akron Smoking Pipe Co.'s Mogadore plant. Preliminary investigation at the Point Pleasant plant has not yielded this form. However, Heite

(1972) illustrates a nearly identical "Wigwam Shaker" form found near the Pamplin, Virginia plant, and Hamilton and Hamilton (1972) report 2 similar specimens. The Pamplin examples can be distinguished from all of the available Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield pipes by virtue of the fact that the horizontal ridge on the bowl of the Pamplin specimens occurs considerably further below the lip—6-7mm, as estimated from illustrations—than on the Mogadore specimens. Perhaps this will prove to be a consistent distinction. Differences in color and texture may also exist, though previous researchers have not noted these types of information on Pamplin pipes. It is also possible that the Pamplin hexagonal stemmed pipes will prove distinguishable on the basis of different mold marks or the complete absence of such mold marks. Elsewhere Murphy and Reich (1972) have tabulated the various mold marks found on the Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield pipes, and the list will not be repeated here, except to point out that over 1/2 of the sample from the Mogadore dump bear mold marks consisting of either the letter "M" or "K" or a "plus" sign. It should be noted, too, that nearly 24% of the Mogadore specimens (total sample of 302) either lack markings on the base of the bowl or have unidentifiable markings.

Discussion: This type is by far the most common pipe style found at the Mogadore dump. Its absence at the Point Pleasant factory site might suggest that this type was not manufactured after 1895, but production may have continued at the Pamplin plant.

Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield var. Finzer (Fig. 1b)

Diagnosis: This variety is distinguished by presence of the name "FINZER" impressed on the lower facets on either side of the stem. The lettering is often extremely faint and is easily overlooked. Of the 17 "Finzer" pipes available, 10 have the letter "M" in the base of the bowl, and the other 7 are unmarked.

Discussion: This variety does not seem to have been described previously in the literature.



Fig. 1. a, Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield; b, Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield, var. Finzer; c, d, Broken specimens of Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield pipes revealing mold marks in the bottom of the bowl; e, Mogadore Ribbed Chesterfield, var. A; f, Mogadore Ribbed Chesterfield, var. B; g, Untyped ribbed elbow pipe; h, Untyped lettered bowl fragment: "... TLIN'S ... O. S." i, Mogadore Diamond Stamped Elbow; j, Point Pleasant Diamond Stamped Elbow. All specimens personally excavated at the Mogadore dump, except specimen i, purchased at a Mogadore antique store, and j, excavated at the Point Pleasant site by Gary Fuhrman. Bar scales equal 1 cm.

The only other known specimen is in the East Liverpool Historical Society's museum, East Liverpool, Ohio.

Mogadore Ribbed Chesterfield var. A (Fig. 1e)

Diagnosis: A round stemmed Chesterfield form with bowl and stem ornamented by wide, closely spaced ribs. Single banding ribs occur 4-5 below lip of bowl and 5-6mm from end of stem. Ribs (26-30) are vertical around entire perimeter of bowl. All known specimens are marked by an asterisk mold mark in the bottom of bowl.

Measurements: Maximum length: 46mm; Maximum bowl width: 25-26mm; bowl height: 38-39mm; stem diameter: 14-15mm; bore diameter: 7mm.

Comparison: This variety can be distinguished from the next described variety by the consistently vertical ribs on the bowl. Hamilton and Hamilton (1972) illustrate a unique Pamplin specimen indistinguishable (from the illustration) from this Mogadore type.

Discussion: This type is not common at the Mogadore dump, being represented by only 9 specimens. It is unquestionably a product of the Akron Smoking Pipe Co., as it is illustrated on an 1893 letterhead of that company (Blair 1965).

Mogadore Ribbed Chesterfield var. B (Fig. 1f)

Diagnosis: A Mogadore Ribbed Chesterfield variety characterized by a series of ribs which are vertical on the side of the bowl but form a sharp angle to become horizontal on the back part of the bowl above the stem.

Measurements: Virtually identical with those of variety A. Stem diameter is slightly greater (15-16mm) in the specimens available (6), but the sample is too small for this to be considered significant.

Comparison: The only significant difference between this variety and the one previously described is the presence of 4 horizontal ribs on the back of the bowl in variety B. One specimen has part of an unidentifiable mold mark,

but the only complete specimen has no mold mark in the base of the bowl.

Discussion: Cresthull (1969: Figs. 2-10) illustrates what is probably this variety, but it is a purchased specimen without provenience.

Untyped Ribbed Elbow (Fig. 1g)

Diagnosis: An elbow pipe similar to Mogadore Ribbed Chesterfield form in ornament. Ribs are about 30 in number, vertical around bowl but coalescing along the seam in a "V" at the back of the bowl.

Comparison: Although distinctive in both form and ornament, this specimen provides insufficient material on which to base a formal type, particularly since there is no evidence that it was manufactured at Mogadore, other than the similarity in design to other products from the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. This form is easily distinguished from the ribbed or fluted elbow pipes manufactured at the Point Pleasant and Pamplin plants.

Untyped Lettered Bowl Fragment (Fig. 1h)

A single milled or ribbed bowl fragment probably represents a variety of the Mogadore Hexagonal Stemmed Milled Chesterfield type. Enclosed in a finelined rectangular "box" is part of a label: . . . TLINS/ . . . O.S. The pipe is of unglazed gray stoneware. Hamilton and Hamilton (1972: pl. 20 Z) illustrate a Pamplin "specialty" pipe with the name CATLIN embossed on the bowl, but this Pamplin form is otherwise dissimilar.

Mogadore Diamond Stamped Elbow (Fig. 1i)

Diagnosis: Elbow pipe with fine diamond pattern on the bowl. Stem zoned, ornamented with 14-15 diagonal ribs. Single bordering ribs 3-4 mm below bowl lip and 5 mm from stem edge. Known mold marks in the base of the bowl include an asterisk and the letters "A"(2), "K"(3), "T"(6), or "V"(1). Three specimens lack mold marks in the bowls, and 12 fragments have no bowl bases.

Measurements: Maximum length: 41 mm; maximum bowl width: 25 mm; bowl height:

38-40 mm; stem diameter: 15-16 mm; bore diameter: 6-6.5 mm.

Comparison: A virtually identical pipe style was apparently manufactured at the Point Pleasant factory. Although I have not recovered any of this type from the Point Pleasant site, Loretta Fuhrman, Grant Birthplace museum, Point Pleasant, has given me a specimen (Fig. 2j) which her son found at the Point Pleasant factory. The pipe is unglazed and more crudely fashioned than any of the Mogadore specimens. Several minor features serve to distinguish it from the Mogadore pipes, though it remains to be seen whether these differences are constant when a larger sample is available from Point Pleasant. Unfortunately, the Point Pleasant specimen is slightly deformed, so that measurements of bowl diameter and height are useless in attempts to type this specimen. Stem diameter (14 mm) and bore diameter (7 mm) do differ from corresponding measurements on the Mogadore sample, and these differences may prove significant. Perhaps most important is the slightly greater number (16-17) of diagonal ribs on the stem of the Point Pleasant pipe.

Discussion: This and the type next described are the only 2 pipe styles thus far recovered from both the Mogadore and the Point Pleasant sites, suggesting that these 2 forms were being produced in 1894 when the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. acquired the Point Pleasant plant. The 1941 Pamplin catalogue reproduced by Hamilton and Hamilton (1972) illustrates a virtually identical "Akron Shaker" form, except that the Pamplin style has a horizontal groove in place of the bordering rib below the edge of the bowl.

Mogadore Diagonally Ribbed Elbow (Fig. 2c)

Diagnosis: Elbow pipe similar in form to Mogadore Diamond Stamped Elbow but un-zoned and instead ornamented by a series of 19-20 diagonal ribs, a horizontal ridge 4-5 mm below the lip of the bowl, and a thick, rounded ridge at the edge of the stem.

Measurements: Maximum length: 42-43mm; maximum bowl width: 25mm; bowl height: 41-42mm; stem diameter: 13-14mm; bore diameter: 7.5 mm.

Comparison: Fragments of a nearly identical pipe style are available from the Point Pleasant factory site, but these are easily distinguishable by virtue of their much narrower stem (11-12mm) narrower bore (6-6.5mm), and more widely spaced diagonal ribs which are obsolete on the upper side of the stem. Both types have been illustrated together elsewhere (Murphy 1974).

Discussion: We have not excavated this type at the Mogadore dump. The illustrated specimen was purchased from a local antique dealer and is reported to have come from the Mogadore dump. A stem fragment of a Mogadore Diagonally Ribbed Elbow has been found by Kurt Reich, Cleveland, Ohio, in a small dump possibly associated with the old Mogadore Hotel. The consistent differences between these 2 specimens and the specimens of the similar Point Pleasant pipe form suggest that they represent another late pipe style manufactured around 1895 by the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. both at Mogadore and Point Pleasant, although the molds were possibly slightly different at each factory. Some support is given this theory by the presence of a mold mark in the bowl of the complete Mogadore specimen (a straight raised line transvers to the pipe stem) and the absence of a mold mark on the Point Pleasant examples.

Helping Hand Elbow (Fig. 2a, b)

Diagnosis: A plain, unornamented elbow pipe with an outstretched hand embossed on either side of the bowl between the words "HELPING" and "TOBACCO". A bordering ridge occurs 3-4 mm below the lip of the bowl, and a broader, more rounded ridge about 5 mm from the edge of the stem.

Measurements: Maximum bowl width: 26-27mm; stem diameter: 16 mm; bore, diameter: 6.5 mm.

Comparison: This rare type is known only from the Mogadore dump. Only 2 fragments have been recovered, one bearing a letter "M" mold mark.

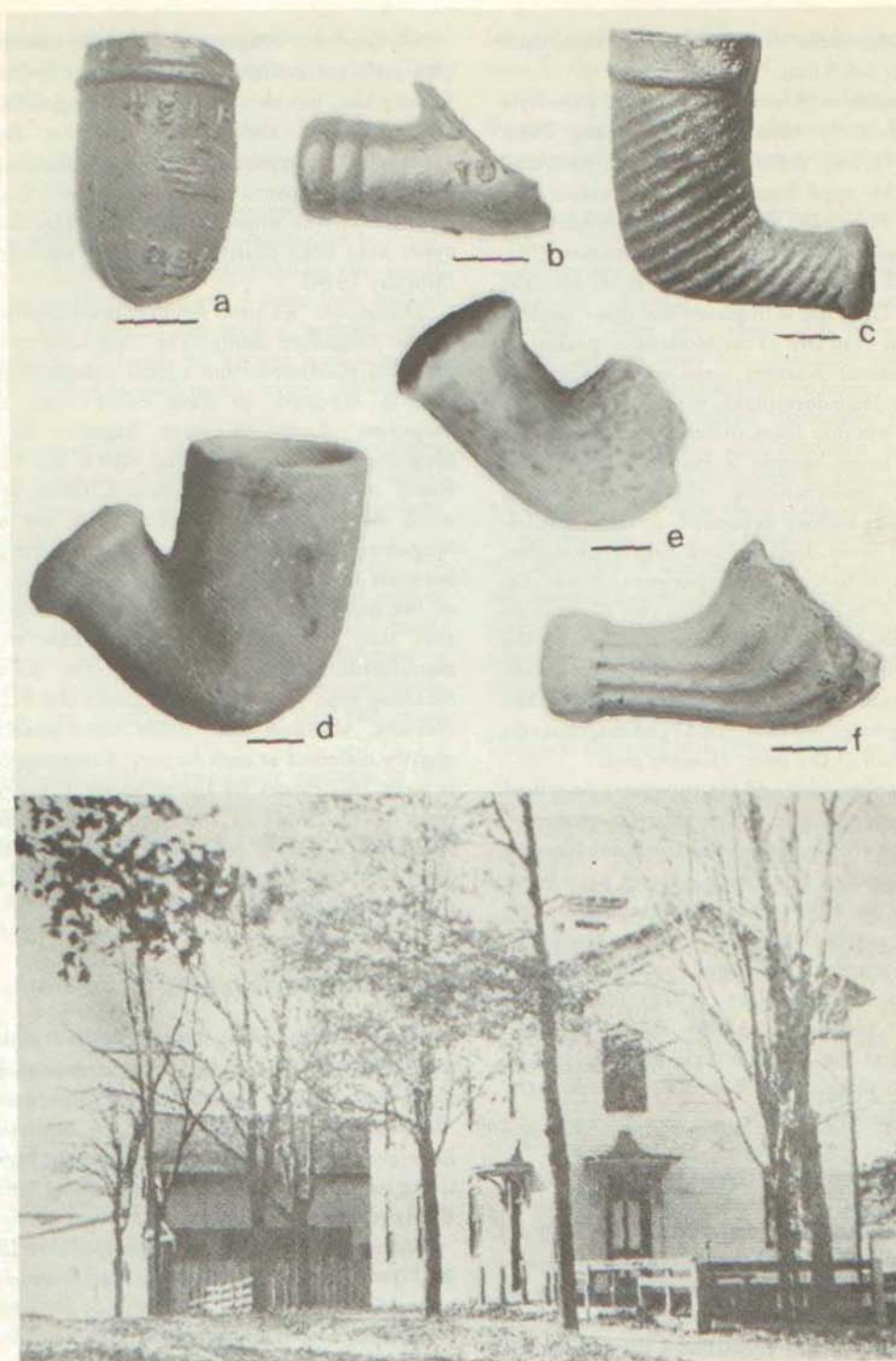


Fig. 2. a, b., Fragments of two Helping Hand Elbow pipes from the Mogadore dump; c, Mogadore Diagonally Ribbed Elbow pipe, purchased at a Mogadore antique store; d, Untyped earthenware Chesterfield pipe, purchased at a Mogadore antique store; e, Untyped earthenware Chesterfield, Mogadore Hotel dump; f, Untyped "kaolin" fluted elbow pipe, Mogadore dump. Below, the only known photograph of the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. plant at Mogadore (to left of schoolhouse). Bar scales equal 1 cm.

Untyped Earthenware Chesterfield (Fig. 2d, e)

Diagnosis: Large, reddish-tan unglazed earthenware Chesterfield with expanding stem and faint bordering element 5-6 mm below lip of bowl.

Measurements: Maximum length: 54 mm; maximum bowl width: 33 mm; bowl height: 49 mm; stem width: 25 mm; bore width: 12.5 mm.

Comparison: This style closely resembles a Pamplin type illustrated by Heite (1972; fig. 11), but slight differences in proportions suggest that they can be distinguished. Most notable is the considerably thicker stem of the Mogadore form, but also significant are the slightly greater bowl diameter and narrower angle between bowl and stem on the Ohio form.

Discussion: The complete illustrated specimen was purchased at an antique store in Mogadore, but the fragmentary specimen was found in a small dump near the old Mogadore hotel. It is possible that they represent an undescribed variant from the Pamplin factory, but it is considered more likely that they are a local product.

Untyped "Kaolin" Fluted Elbow (Fig. 2f)

Diagnosis: Fragmentary stem of white "kaolin" elbow pipe. Ornamented by 12 broadly rounded, widely spaced ribs which are discontinuous on the back of the bowl. Thick convex ridge at end of stem.

Measurements: Stem diameter: 15.6; bore diameter: 6.6 mm.

Discussion: This is the only pipe recovered from the Mogadore dump that displays any evidence of use. Because it does show use, and because it is the only "kaolin" pipe recovered, it is not believed to be a Mogadore product.

Conclusions

It is considered highly probable, on the basis of the collection of reed stem tobacco pipes recovered from the Mogadore dump, that this dump was used by the Akron Smoking Pipe Co.

for at least part of the period 1883-1895. The pipe styles illustrated in Fig. 1 and those illustrated in Fig. 2 a-b are believed to be products of the Akron Smoking Pipe Co. or its forerunner, Fenton & Co. These pipe styles can be distinguished, in so far as is known, from products of other pipe making establishments, including the Point Pleasant, Ohio, and Pamplin, Virginia, factories. Although late 19th century sites are often neglected by archaeologists in the eastern United States, they have received some attention in the west. Gradual refinement of the ages of these reed stem tobacco pipe styles is to be anticipated as more sites of this period receive the attention of archaeologists and historians.

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